

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OPIC-06 SAM-01 ORM-01 DHA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 OPR-02 /077 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3892

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LISBON 4839

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: AIRLIFT FOR ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: LISBON 4815

1. MAJOR ANTONIO CALDAS, MILITARY AIDE TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, WHO HAS BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF GOP COORDINATION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR ANGOLAN AIRLIFT, CALLED ON ME TODAY. SAID FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT ALREADY ON ITS WAY. HE WAS ASSEMBLING A TEAM WHICH WOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK WITH US ON DETAILS AS SOON AS WE WERE READY.

2. MAJOR CALDAS CLARIFIED SOME OF THE FIGURES THAT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO ME ON A SHEET OF PAPER WITHOUT EXPLANATION BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. THE 80,000 POTENTIAL EVACUEES FROM LUANDA REPORTED REFTEL REPRESENTED ONLY THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE EMERGENCY CASES. THE TOTAL NEEDED TO BE TRANSPORTED FROM LUANDA WAS 140,000.

3. BACKTRACKING, CALDAS SAID THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES TO BE TRANSPORTED IS 300,000. 100,000 OF THOSE WILL BE HANDLED COMMERICALLY BY THREE TAP 747S AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL UNCLASSIFIED

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PURPOSES WE CAN FORGET THEM. THE REMAINING 200,000 ARE THE

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND ARE OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN. RIGHT NOW THE GOP HAS NO CAPACITY TO HELP THEM. 140,000 ARE IN LUANDA AND 60,000 IN NOVA LISBOA.

4. THE CHIEF LIMITATION IS THE CAPACITY OF THE GROUND CREWS AT THE LUANDA AND NOV LISBOA AIRPORTS. RIGHT NOW, CALDAS, SAID, LUANDA HAS THE CAPACITY TO HANDLE THREE 747S PER DAY. TO MEET GOP GOALS, CALDAS INTENDS TO PUT ANOTHER TEAM IN LUANDA, GIVING IT A CAPACITY FOR FOUR 747S PER DAY. NOVA LISBOA CANNOT HANDLE 747S. THE GROUND CAPACITY THERE CAN TAKE EIGHT 707S PER DAY. THIS AIRPORT CAN OPERATE ONLY IN DAYLIGHT.

5. IN SUM, IF GOP WERE, WITH INTERNATIONAL HELP, TO EXERCISE MAXIMUM AIRLIFT CAPACITY THEY WOULD HAVE FOUR 747S OPERATING DAILY OUT OF LUANDA AND EIGHT 707S OPERATING DAILY OUT OF NOVA LISBOA. RIGHT NOW THE ONLY THING THAT IS OPERATING ARE THE THREE COMMERCIAL TAP 747S.

6. CALDAS SAID HIS PLANNING STAFF IS READY TO GO AND URGED WE MOVE RAPIDLY. REQUEST MAC PLANNING STAFF BE IMMEDIATELY DESPATCHED TO LISBON.
CARLUCCI

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